Statement

The steps taken to accelerate the pace of construction of National Highways

The following steps have been taken to ensure early completion of the projects:–

(a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways and Minister, Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.

(b) State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the NHDP such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.

(c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges (ROBs).

(d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified.

(e) To expedite the construction of ROBs an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has also been signed with M/s IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.

(f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

(g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum Interim Payments Certificate (IPC) amount.

NS-EW corridor in MP

†1938. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether North-South (NS)-East-West (EW) corridor plan has been finalized;

(b) whether it is a fact that a mere 621 Kms. has been proposed under the National Highway for vast State like Madhya Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons therefor and whether any proposal to increase this length further as per requirements of the State is under consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 652 km of National Highway in Madhya Pradesh is included in North South and East West (NS-EW) corridor. This length is as per the length of the corridor crossing Madhya Pradesh. There is no proposal to increase this length.

(d) Does not arise.

Mumbai port container terminal

1939. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mumbai Port's plan to set up a container terminal is under Government's scrutiny;

(b) whether the port has been asked to provide details of container traffic revenue and expenses to ascertain the viability of the project;

(c) whether Rs.1,228 crore container terminal project is proposed to be developed by a consortium led by Gammon India through the build-operate-transfer basis; and

(d) whether Government has justified the project in view of the increasing container trade in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Government has approved the proposal of the Mumbai Port Trust to award the contract to set up an Offshore Container Terminal on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis at the Port to a Consortium led by Gammon India Ltd. who has offered highest share of gross revenue of 35.064% from the planned facility to the Mumbai Port Trust, on the basis of open competitive bidding. Pre-investment studies on the project have established the viability of the project.

Pedestrian over-bridge on NH-5

1940. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation from the Road Safety Forum objecting to non-use of pedestrian over-bridge at Chilakoluripeto on NH-5 as the reason to avoid building any other pedestrian over-bridges in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the objections that were raised by the Road Safety Forum against Government's decision to penalise Andhra Pradesh by not increasing road safety;